Extraction of Gold in Karnataka by Foreign Companies

589. SHRl GUNDAPPA KORWAR: WiH the Minister of MINES be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have signed **a** memorandum of understanding with some foreign companies to extract gold in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) the places where gold deposite have been found in the State; and

(d) the quantity of gold proposed to be extracted by foreign companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV); (a) aad (b) Government have not signed any memo, randum of understanding with a foreign company for extraction of gold in Karnataka. However, Hindustan Zinc Limited ***has*** signed a memorandum of understanding with M/s. Niugini Mining Ltd <NML), Australia for setting up a mint venture to identify prospective goid resources in India.

(c) Gold deposit have been identied at Ajjanahalli in Tumkur District and Kempinkota in Hassan District of Karnataka.

(d) In view of answer to (a) and (*>)• this does not arise.

Import of Mertalurigal Coke

590. SHRI SANJAY DALMTA;
SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI:

Will[1] the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether mettalurigal coke for zinc plants has been imported despte its availability in abundance in tbe country; **and**

(fo) if 90, **the** reasons therefor7

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) Government has constituted an enquiry committee to examine the matte- of import of metalluriga] coke by Hndu-stan Zinc Limited. Committee's report is awaited.

Demand of Aluminium

591 SHRI BH AG AB AN MAJHI; Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate demand of Alu minium in the country by 2000 AD and the projections made till' then;

(b) whether there is a need fc? increase the production of aluminium during this period;

(c) if so, the proposal mooted by Government in that regard; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV); (a) The' Working Group on Aluminium etc. set up by the Government in the context of 8th Five Year Plan assessed the demand of Aluminium metal as 8.27 lakhs metric tonnes by the year 2000AD. The existing installed capacity for' production of primary aluminium in the countrv at present is 6.35 lakhs tonnes per annum.

(b) to (d) Some of the primary producers plan to expand their existing capacities. In order to encourage production of Aluminium in the private sector Government have exempted Aluminium Industry from the provisions of compulsory licensing. Besides this, with a view to make production of Aluminium more attractive, Government have reduced excise duty on the metal and extended MODVAT. Aluminium industry has been also listed as one of the industries where automatic approval of foreign equity upto 51 per cent is available to entourage foreign investment in this sector.